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A

DESCRIPTION

OF

STONEHENGE,

ON

Salisbury Plain.

[*Price Two Shillings.*]

North East View of Stonehenge From an Original Dra

H. Roberts Sculp.

E. Drawing of George Keate Esq.r in the Possession of Robt. Duke Esq.r

Sold by B. Easton Sarum.

8

A

DESCRIPTION

OF

STONEHENGE,

ON

SALISBURY PLAIN;

EXTRACTED

From the Works of the moſt eminent Authors:

WITH SOME

MODERN OBSERVATIONS

ON THAT

STUPENDOUS STRUCTURE:

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

An Account of the Fall of Three Stones, Jan. 3, 1797.

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A New Edition:

ORNAMENTED WITH FIVE VIEWS.

Salisbury:

Printed and ſold by J. EASTON, High-ſtreet. Sold alſo by Meſſrs. CROSBY and LETTERMAN, Stationers'-Court, *London.*

1800.

PREFACE.

No publications afford more entertainment, and prove of more public utility, than local delineations and deſcriptions, drawn with correctneſs and fidelity; they enable perſons to form a juſt idea of remarkable places, to which fortune or ſituation denies them acceſs. Without ſuch auxiliaries, occaſional touriſts, who have not inclination or opportunity to conſult the opinions of the more elaborate antiquarian, muſt inevitably loſe half the pleaſure and ſatisfaction to be derived from their excurſions. The ſeats of noblemen, and the manſions of the opulent, are ſufficiently known from the journals of the touriſt, but the origin of ancient ſtructures, and the

the purpoſes for which they were deſigned, muſt be brought to light by the minuter and more accurate pen of the antiquarian. The curioſity, indeed, entertained by all civilized nations, of enquiring into the manners, exploits, and even cuſtoms of their anceſtors, commonly excites a regret that the hiſtorical accounts of remote periods ſhould always be ſo much involved in obſcurity; for paſt events are immediately conſidered uncertain, when deduced from memory or oral tradition.

The ſtructure of *Stonehenge* is ſo ſingular, and receives ſo little light from hiſtory, that almoſt every antiquarian has advanced a new notion. Theſe relics, however, are conſidered by far the greateſt and moſt perfect ſpecimens of Druidical remains in the whole iſland; but whether or not theſe prodigious piles of ſtones were raiſed to the honor of the Deity, or to the memory of departed heroes, or erected by the Danes

Danes for the election and inauguration of their kings; whether they were intended for *carnedds*, or burial places; *cromlechs*, or altars; it is now almoſt impoſſible to aſcertain with preciſion. All theſe opinions have had their able advocates, but the weight of the argument ſeems to preponderate on that ſide which aſcribes them to the purpoſes of religion, and conſiders them the altars of Druidical worſhip.

To give the ſeveral conjectures of the moſt celebrated writers on this myſterious fabric, is the deſign of the following pages; by theſe aids the touriſt will be the better enabled to form ſome idea of its origin and deſign. But to whatever purpoſe it was originally aſſigned, cold indeed muſt be the heart of that man, who, midſt a ſcene like this, feels no enthuſiaſtic glow, or that pleaſing emotion, which religious remains ſo naturally and univerſally inſpire.

Ani-

Animated by the encouragement and approbation with which this little work has been received, the Author has reviſed the whole with diligent attention, and made ſuch additions as circumſtances ſeemed to require. Since the alteration it experienced in the year 1797, it has attracted more particular notice. The account of this extraordinary circumſtance has been very accurately delineated by the ingenious Dr. Maton.* This gentleman's minute deſcription of the downfall of the three ſtones, as given in the *Archæologia*, has been added; as alſo three neat views, engraven on wood, from drawings, accurately taken ſince that memorable event.

* Author of *Obſervations on the Weſtern Counties of England*, 2 vol. octavo.

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DESCRIP-

South West View of Stonehenge - From an Original Dra

H-Roberts Sculp.

Drawing of George Keate Esq.r in the Possession of Rob.t Duke Esq.r

Sold by E. Easton Sarum.

DESCRIPTION

OF

STONEHENGE.

Account of STONEHENGE *by* JEFFERY *of* MONMOUTH.

STONEHENGE was a monument erected in the reign of Aurelius Ambroſius, by Ambroſe Merlin, to perpetuate the treachery of Hengiſt, the Saxon general; who, having deſired a friendly meeting with Vortigern, at the monaſtery of Ambreſbury, aſſaſſinated him, with four hundred and ſixty of his barons and conſuls; after which the bodies of the ſlaughtered Britons were interred in a burying place near the monaſtery where they had received their deaths; and Aurelius Ambroſius going to ſee the ſepulchre, ſoon after he had mounted the Britiſh throne, the king not only ſhed tears at the ſight of it, but reſolved to perpetuate the memory of

 that

that piece of ground which was honoured with the bodies of ſo many noble patriots, that died for their country, with ſome noble monuments.

In order to this, the king, after ſummoning together ſeveral carpenters and maſons, commanded them to employ the utmoſt of their art in contriving a proper ſtructure; but they, out of diffidence of their own ſkill, refuſing to undertake it, Merlin, who had been the prophet of Vortigern, was ſent for to exerciſe his abilities; and he immediately adviſed Aurelius to ſend for the Giant's Dance in Killaraus, a mountain in Ireland: for there is, ſays he, a ſtructure of ſtones there, which none of this age could raiſe without a profound knowledge of the mechanical arts: they are ſtones of a vaſt magnitude, and wonderful quality; and if they can be placed here as they ſtand there, they will remain for ever.

Theſe ſtones, continues Merlin, are myſtical, and of a medicinal virtue. The giants of old brought them from the fartheſt coaſts of Africa, and placed them in Ireland, while they inhabited that country. Their deſign in this was to make baths in them, when they ſhould be taken with any illneſs; for their method was to waſh the ſtones, and put their ſick into the water, which infallibly cured them. With the like ſucceſs they cured wounds alſo, adding only the application of ſome

ſome herbs; and there is not a ſtone there, concluded Merlin, which has not ſome healing virtue.

Aurelius forthwith ſent his brother Uther, attended with fifteen thouſand young men, under the direction of Merlin, for theſe wonderful ſtones; and at their arrival at the place where they ſtood, Merlin bad the men try their force, and ſee whether ſtrength, or art, could do more towards taking them down. The command was no ſooner given, than ſome of the young men, who had prepared cables, others who had provided ſmall ropes, and ſome who had furniſhed themſelves with ladders for the work, applied thoſe implements to the ſeveral parts of the building, and with one accord, the whole army attempted the removal of the Giant's Dance—but all to no purpoſe. Merlin, laughing at their vain efforts, then began his own contrivances; and when he had placed the engines in their proper order, which he thought neceſſary for the work, he took down the ſtones with incredible facility, and withal gave directions for carrying them to Mount-Ambre.

The ſtones were no ſooner brought to this mountain, than the king ſummoned to it the biſhops, the abbots, and the people of all other orders and qualities, from every part of Britain, to celebrate with joy and honour, the ſetting them up. And when the parties

were all aſſembled, Aurelius with royal pomp, celebrated the feaſt of Pentecoſt, the ſolemnity whereof he continued the three following days. In the mean time, the king having beſtowed all places of honour, that were vacant, on his domeſtics, as a reward for their good ſervices, he next ordered Merlin to go to work upon the monument, and rear up the ſtones that were prepared for it, about the ſepulchre of the ſlaughtered Britons; which he forthwith did in the ſame form as they ſtood in the mountain Killaraus; and, as the Britiſh hiſtorian concludes, thereby gave a manifeſt proof of the prevalence of art, above ſtrength.

Tradition varies from hiſtory, in the ſtory touching the removal of this monument from the mountain of Killaraus to that of Ambrius, and delivers it to this brief effect:

The prophet Merlin, deſirous of having a parcel of ſtones, which grew in an odd ſort of form in a backſide belonging to an old woman in Ireland, tranſported from thence to one of the hills of Saliſbury Plain, employed the Devil upon the work; who, the night after, dreſſing himſelf like a gentleman, and taking a large bag of money in his hand, preſented himſelf before the good woman as ſhe was ſitting at her table, and acquainted her of the purchaſe he was come to make; the fiend, at the ſame time, pouring out his money

money on the board before her, and offering her as much for the ſtones as ſhe could reckon while he ſhould be taking them away.

The money was all in odd ſorts of coins, ſuch as four-penny-half-penny pieces, nine-penny pieces, thirteen-penny-halfpenny pieces, and the like: but, nevertheleſs, the Devil's propoſals ſeemed ſo very advantageous, that notwithſtanding the difficulty there would be in reckoning the money, the old woman could not avoid complying with it, as ſhe imagined the removal of her ſtones by a ſingle man would be a work of almoſt infinite time, and that ſhe ſhould be able to tell as much money, while it ſhould be about, as would make her as rich as a princeſs. But the bargain was no ſooner made, and ſhe had no ſooner laid her fingers on a four-penny-half-penny coin, than the Devil, with an audible voice, cried out—"Hold!" and ſaid, "the "ſtones are gone." The old woman, diſregarding what he ſaid, however peeped out into her backſide, and, to her great amazement, it was even ſo, as Satan had ſpoken; for the common deceiver of mankind in an inſtant took down the ſtones, bound them up in a wyth, and conveyed them to Saliſbury Plain. But juſt before he got to Mount Ambre, the wyth ſlackened, and as he was croſſing the river Avon, at Bulford, one of the ſtones dropped down into the water, where it lies to this very hour; the reſt were immediately reared

up on the ſpot of ground deſtined by Merlin for them; and the Devil, pleaſed with the accompliſhment of his work, declared, upon fixing the laſt ſtone, that nobody ſhould be ever able to tell how the fabric, or any of the parts of which it is compoſed, came there.

A Friar, who had laid all night concealed near the building, hearing the Devil's declaration, replied to it, by ſaying, "That is more than thee canſt tell;" which put Satan into ſuch a paſſion, that he ſnatched up a pillar, and hurled it at the Friar, with an intention to bruiſe him to dirt; but he running for his life, the ſtone, in its fall, only reached his heel, and ſtruck him in it; the mark of which appears in that pillar even unto this day.—[*Vide Wood's Stonehenge*, p. 70.]

Giraldas Cambrenſis ſays there was in Ireland, in ancient times, a pile of ſtones worthy admiration, called the Giant's Dance; becauſe giants, from the remoteſt parts of Africa, brought them into Ireland; and in the plains of Kildare, not far from the caſtle of Naaſe, as well by force of art, as ſtrength, miraculouſly ſet them up. Theſe ſtones, Aurelius Ambroſius, King of the Britons, procured Merlin by ſupernatural means to bring from Ireland, into Britain. And that he might leave ſome famous monument of ſo great a treaſon, to after ages, in the ſame order and art as they ſtood formerly, ſet them up where the flower of the Britiſh nation

tion fell by the cut-throat practice of the Saxons; and where, under pretence of peace, the ill-secured youth of the kingdom, by murderous designs, were slain.—[*Vide Jones's Stonehenge*, p. 12.]

South-west View.

CAMDEN'S *Account of* STONEHENGE.

TOWARDS the north, about ſix miles from Saliſbury, in the plain, is to be ſeen an huge and monſterous piece of work, ſuch as Cicero termeth *inſanam Subſtructionem*; for, within the circuit of a ditch, there are erected in manner of a crown, in three ranks or courſes, one within another, certain mighty and unwrought ſtones, whereof ſome are twenty-eight feet high, and ſeven broad; upon the heads of which, others, like overthwart pieces, do bear and reſt croſſwiſe, with a ſmall tenon and mortaiſe, ſo as the whole frame ſeemeth to hang: whereof we call it Stonehenge, like as our old hiſtorians termed it for the greatneſs, *Chorea Gigantum*, the Giant's Dance. Our countrymen reckon this for one of our wonders, and miracles. And much they marvel from whence ſuch huge ſtones were brought, conſidering that in all thoſe quarters, bordering thereupon, there is hardly to be found any common ſtones at all for building: as alſo by what means they were ſet up. For my own part, about theſe points, I am not curiouſly to argue and diſpute, but rather to lament, with much grief, that the authors of ſo notable a monument are thus buried in oblivion. Yet ſome there

are that think them to be no natural ſtones hewn out of the rock, but artificially made of pure ſand; and by ſome glewy and unctious matter, knit and incorporate together, like as thoſe ancient trophies and monuments of victory which I have ſeen in Yorkſhire. And what marvel?—Read we not, I pray you, in Pliny, that the ſand or duſt of Puteoli, being covered over with water, becometh forthwith a very ſtone; that the ciſterns in Rome, of ſand digged out of the ground, and the ſtrongeſt kind of lime, wrought together, grow ſo hard, that they ſeem ſtones indeed? And that ſtatues and images of marble ſcalings, and ſmall grit, grow together ſo compact and firm, that they were deemed intire and ſolid marble? The common ſaying is, that Ambroſius Aurelianus, or his brother Uther, did rear them up by the art of Merlin, &c.

The Account of STONEHENGE *from* INIGO JONES, *Architect to King* JAMES I.

THIS antiquity, called by Henry Huntingdon, the ſecond; by Polyolbion,—firſt wonder of the land; becauſe the architraves are ſet upon the heads of the upright ſtones, and hang, as it were, in the air, is generally known by the name of Stone-Henge. It is ſited upon the plain in the county of Wiltſhire, in England, not far from Ambreſbury, the foundation of whoſe buildings, frequently digged up, render it to have been in times paſt a town of no ſmall fame, ſix miles at leaſt from New Saliſbury, northwards.

The whole work in general, being of a circular form, is one hundred and ten feet diameter, double winged about, without a roof, anciently environed with a deep trench, ſtill appearing, about thirty feet broad. So that betwixt it and the work itſelf, a large and void ſpace of ground being left, it had from the plain three open entrances; the moſt conſpicuous thereof lying north-eaſt; at each of which was raiſed, on the outſide of the trench aforeſaid, two huge ſtones gatewiſe; parallel whereunto, on the inſide, two others of leſs

propor-

proportion. The inner part of the work, conſiſting of an hexagonal figure, was raiſed by due ſymmetry, upon the baſes of four equilateral triangles, which formed the whole ſtructure. This inner part likewiſe was double, having, within alſo, another hexagon raiſed; and all that part within the trench, ſited upon a commanding ground, eminent, and higher much than any of the plain lying without; and in the midſt thereof, upon the foundation of a hard chalk, the work itſelf was placed. Inſomuch that from what part ſoever they came unto it, they roſe by an eaſy aſcending hill.

In the inmoſt part of the work, there is a ſtone, appearing not much above the ſurface of the earth, and lying towards the eaſt, four feet broad, and ſixteen feet long, which, whether it might be an altar, or no, I leave to the judgment of others; becauſe ſo overwhelmed with the ruins of the work, that I could make no ſearch after it; but even with much difficulty took the aforeſaid proportions thereof: yet, for my part, I can apprehend no valid reaſons to the contrary; except that the whole conſtructure being circular in form, the altar ſhewed rather to have been placed upon the centre of the circle, than inclined to the circumference. Nevertheleſs it cannot be denied, but, being ſo fitted, the cell (as I may call it) was thereby left more free, for the due performance of thoſe ſeveral ſuperſtitious rites, which their idolatry led them to.

The great ſtones, which made the entrances from the outſide of the trench, are ſeven feet broad, three feet thick, and twenty high.

The parallel ſtones, on the inſide of the trench, are four feet broad, and three feet thick; but they lie ſo broken, and ruined by time, that their proportion in height cannot be diſtinguiſhed, much leſs exactly meaſured.

The ſtones which made the outer circle, were ſeven feet in breadth, three feet and a half in thickneſs, and fifteen feet and a half in height; each ſtone having two tenons mortaiſed into the architrave, continuing upon them throughout the whole circumference. For theſe architraves, being jointed directly in the middle of each of the perpendicular ſtones, that their weight might have an equal bearing, and upon each ſide of the joint, a tenon wrought (as yet remains to be ſeen) it may poſitively be concluded thereby, the architrave continued round about this outward circle.

The ſmaller ſtones of the inner circle, are one foot and a half in breadth, one foot thick, and ſix feet high. Theſe had no architraves upon them, but were raiſed perpendicular, of a pyramidal form. That there was no architrave upon theſe, may be hence concluded, the ſtones being two ſmall to carry ſuch a weight, the

ſpaces

ſpaces being alſo too wide to admit of an architrave upon them, without danger of breaking; and being but ſix feet high, there could not poſſibly be a convenient head-height remaining for a paſſage underneath; eſpecially, conſidering fully, the greatneſs of the whole work.

The ſtones of the greater hexagon, are ſeven feet and a half in breadth, three feet nine inches in thickneſs, and twenty feet in height, each ſtone having one tenon in the middle.

The ſtones of the hexagon within are two feet ſix inches broad, one foot and a half thick, and eight feet high; in form pyramidal, like thoſe of the inner circle.

The architrave, lying round about upon the upright ſtones, of the outward circle, being mortaiſed into them, and jointed in the middle of each of the perpendicular ſtones, is three feet and a half broad, and two feet and a half high.

The architrave, which lyeth on the top of the great ſtones of the hexagon, and mortaiſed alſo into them, is ſixteen feet long, three feet nine inches broad, and three feet four inches high. This architrave, continuing only from ſtone to ſtone, left betwixt every

two, and two, a void ſpace, free to the air, uncovered. For if they had been continued throughout the whole hexagon, then neceſſarily there muſt have been two tenons upon each of the ſaid ſtones, as thoſe of the outward circle had; but being diſpoſed as aforeſaid, that one which was in the middle, and yet remains apparent, was ſufficient for the thing intended.

The ſtones of the greater hexagon, and outward circle, after ſo long conteſt with the violence of time, and injury of the weather, are, for the moſt part, ſtanding at this day; which, though not all at their full height, as when firſt ſet up, yet the footſteps, nevertheleſs, of many of them, as expreſſed in the deſign, are ſtill remaining in their proper places. Thoſe of the inner circle, and leſſer hexagon, not only expoſed to the fury of all devouring age, but to the rage of men likewiſe, have been more ſubject to ruin: for being of no extraordinary proportions, they might eaſily be beaten down, or digged up, and at pleaſure made uſe of for other occaſions; which I am the rather induced to believe, becauſe ſince my firſt meaſuring the work, not one fragment of ſome of them ſtanding, is now to be found.

After many arguments to prove the different orders of architecture made uſe of in the temples dedicated to their gods and goddeſſes, as this was of the Tuſcan order,

order, and open to the heavens, he conceives it was dedicated to the god Cœlus, by ſome authors called Cœlum, by others Uranus, from whom the ancients imagined all things took their beginning. His reaſons are, firſt, in reſpect to the ſituation thereof; for it ſtands in a plain, remote from any town or village, in a free and open air, without any groves or woods about it. Secondly, in regard of the aſpect; for Stone-Henge was never covered, but built without a roof. Which decorum the Romans ever obſerved, both in the ſituation and aſpect, of the temples dedicated to this their god, and to Jove the Lightner, the ſun, and the moon. Another reaſon I find alſo why they built their temples to Cœlus, and thoſe other deities, uncovered, as Stone-Henge; becauſe they counted it an heinous matter to ſee thoſe gods confined under a roof, whoſe doing good conſiſted in being abroad.

Dr. CHARLTON, *Phyſician to King* CHARLES II. *confutes* INIGO JONES's *Notions of its being a Roman Temple, and believes it to have been erected by the* DANES, *for the Election and Inauguration of their Kings.*

IN the ſtrength of this confidence (he ſays), I adventure to acquaint you moreover, with my conjecture, concerning the time when Stonehenge was firſt ſet up: which I take to be in the beginning of the reign of that excellent prince, Alfred, or Allured; who, as he was the firſt anointed king of this iſland, ſo was he the firſt learned king, and moſt munificent patron to ſcholars, that ever ſwayed the ſceptre of Britain: for all our chronicles agreeingly deliver, that he was ſcarcely ſeated in his throne, when there came over greater ſwarms of Danes than ever before, to infeſt his dominions; and that, after many unfortunate battles with them, he was reduced to that extremity, that leaving his large monarchy to the rage and rapine of thoſe inſulting Pagans, he fled, for ſafety of his life, into the marſhes of Somerſetſhire, where, for two years, he lay concealed in a poor diſguiſe, ſuſtaining himſelf by fiſhing and fowling. Among other adventures, that befel this glorious perſon in this dark eclipſe, it is not unworthy

worthy remembrance, that on a time, as he was ſitting in the chimney corner, in the cottage of a cow-herd (who entertained him in his ſervice), and buſied in trimming his bow and arrows, a cake of dough, lying to be baked on the hearth before him, chanced to be burned; which the good wife imputing to his neglect, in great fury caſt away his bow and arrows, and ſharply checking him, ſaid —"Thou fellow, doſt thou "ſee the bread burn before thy face, and wilt not turn "it? And yet thou art glad to eat it before it be half "baked."—Shortly after this, learning policy from adverſity, and deriving courage from neceſſity, he ventured in the habit of a common minſtrel, to enter the Danes' camp, (in Wiltſhire, and probably not far from the place where Stonehenge ſtands,) and having viewed the manner of their encamping, and obſerved their ſecurity, he returned back to ſeveral of his lords, retreated into the iſland called Edlinſey, environed with two rivers, Thane and Parret, in Somerſetſhire, and acquainted them in how careleſs, and open a poſture he found the enemy; re-collected the ſcattered remains of his forces, and with theſe, ſurpriſing the Danes, and putting them firſt into a panic terror, and then to flight, gave them ſo conſiderable a defeat, that they immediately ſummitted to a treaty, and delivered hoſtages for performance of conditions.

Now, conſidering the extreme low ebb of fortune,

to

to which this excellent king was at that time brought, and the high flood of proſperity that had in the mean while advanced the Danes over all parts of his dominions, inſomuch that nothing ſeemed wanting to complete their conqueſt, but only to find out the few defendants who remained in obſcurity, and withal reflecting on that former-mentioned cuſtom of that ambitious and martial nation, to erect courts royal of huge ſtones, according to the manner deſcribed for the election of their kings, in all countries where the happy ſucceſs of their arms had given them a title to ſovereignty; I am apt to believe, that having then overrun the whole kingdom, except only Somerſetſhire, and encamping their main army in Wiltſhire, for near upon two years together; and ſetting up their reſt in a confidence to perpetuate their newly acquired power, they employed themſelves during that time of leiſure and jollity, in erecting Stonehenge, as a place wherein to elect and inaugurate their ſupreme commander, King of England: the weakneſs of the diſtreſſed Alfred affording them a fit opportunity, and that country yielding them fit materials for ſo great and ſtupendous a work. Nor is it improbable, that the great ſupinity and diſorder, in which the royal ſpy found them, when the magic of his fiddle had charmed them into an imperception of the majeſty of his perſon, and procured him a free welcome into their camp, might be occaſioned by the jubilee they celebrated, after they had finiſhed that laborious

aſk,

taſk, and therein newly crowned their king, after a triumphal manner, ſuch as at once correſponded with the faſhion of their anceſtors, and expreſſed the profuſeneſs of their public joy. For many of our hiſtorians relate, that the Daniſh army was at that time let looſe to luxury and revelling; and that the unknown muſician was brought to play before their king, Gurmund, in his tent, during a long magnificent feaſt.—But perhaps I may be thought too bold in daring, from ſuch ſlender paſſages and circumſtantial hints, thus preciſely to gueſs at the age of this antiquity; concerning whoſe original, neither hiſtory, nor tradition, hath left any glimpſe of light, whereby the inquiſitive might be guided through the darkſome vale of uncertainty to the delightful manſion of truth. Leaving every man, therefore, to the liberty of his own thoughts, touching this particular, as alſo whatever elſe hath been ſaid of the monument itſelf, and its original deſignation, I here put a period to this diſcourſe: wherein, though I have ventured to contend with oblivion, I had no deſign to uſurp upon the judgment of others.

A Fool's Bolt ſoon ſhot at STONAGE.

[From a Manuſcript collected by HEARNE, the Antiquarian, printed in PETER LANGTOFT's Chronicle, vol. ii. p. 483.]

A Wander witt of Wiltſhire, rambling to Rome to gaze at antiquities, and there ſkrewing himſelf into the company of antiquaries, they intreated him to illuſtrate unto them, that famous monument in his country, called Stonage. His anſwer was, he had never ſeen, ſcarce heard of it: whereupon they kicked him out of doors, and bad him go home and ſee Stonage. And I wiſh all ſuch Æſopical cocks, as ſlight theſe admired ſtones, and other our domeſtic monuments, (by which they might be admoniſhed, to eſchew ſome evil, or do ſome good,) and ſcrape for barley corns of vanity out of foreigne dunghills, might be handled, or rather footed, as he was. If I had been in his place, I ſhould have been apt to have told them, that ſurely it was ſome heatheniſh temple demoliſhed by the immediate hand of God, as an intolerable abomination

mination unto him: yet reſerving ſo much of it ſtanding, as may declare what the whole was, and how, and why ſo deſtroyed: that as we are to remember Lot's wife, turned into a piller of ſalt for looking backward towards idolatrous Sodome, ſo we ſhould remember, that theſe forlorn pillers of ſtone, are left to be our remembrancers, diſſuading us from looking back in our hearts, upon any thing of idolatry; and perſuading us, in imitation of Moſes and the Prophets, ſo to deſcribe, and deride it in its uglie colours, that none of us, or our poſterity, may returne, with dogs, to ſuch vomit, or ſows, to wallowing in ſuch mire. And ſince all that have (as ye) written on this ſubject, have contradicted and confuted each other, and never any has, as yet, revealed this miſterie of iniquitie to this purpoſe, and that pedlers and tinkers, vamping on London-way near it, may and do freely ſpend their mouths on it, I know not to the contrary, but that I alſo may ſhoot my bolt a little farther into it: however I will adventure, were it for nothing elce but to recreate myſelf ſometimes after other ſtudies, and to provoke my friends which importuned me to it, to ſhoot their accute ſhafts at it alſo; hoping that one or other of us, by art or accident, ſhall hit the mark. My bolt is ſoon ſhot, in this ſhort conjecture: That Stonage was an old Britiſh triumphal tropicall temple, erected to Anaraith, their goddeſs of victory, in a bloudy field there wone, by illuſtrious Stanengs, and his Cangick giants, from K. Divitiacus,

Divitiacus, and his Belgæ. In which temples the captives and ſpoils were ſacrificed to the ſaid idol Anaraith.

So that theſe twelve particulers hereof, are to be demonſtrated:

1. Stonage was an old Britiſh monument.
2. That it was a monument of a bloudy battle foughten there.
3. This bloudy battle produced a glorious victorie.
4. This victorie was wonne by the Cangi of Gladerhaf.
5. The Cangi were giants.
6. Commanded by the famous Stanenges of Honnicutt.
7. The army conquered was K. Divitiacus, and his Belgæ.
8. In this place, aſſoone as the Cangi had conquered, they triumphed.
9. Where they triumphed, they erected this monument as a trophie.
10. This trophie was a temple.
11. This temple was conſecrated to Anaraith, their goddeſs of victory.
12. In this temple, the ſaid victors ſacrificed their captives and ſpoils to their ſaid idoll of victorie.

Our work lies before us in theſe twelve particulers, and our tooles, to perform it, ſhould be ancient, and credible

credible hiſtories, treating of this ſubject. But what are they, and where to be found? Jeffrie of Monmouth, will tell you a tale, that theſe ſtones were brought by giants from Africa, into Quildare in Ireland, and by ſome legerdemaine of Merlin, conveyed to the place, where they are; but no credible hiſtorian could ſpeke any word of any ſuch thing. Gildas Badonicas of Bathe, within twenty (thirty-five) miles of Stonage, writing, *anno domini* 543, had not a word of it: nor venerable Bede; who writing, *anno* 727, of many other rarities of this land, hath not a word of Stonage. William of Malmſburie, writing, *anno* 1142, within fourteen (thirty-five) miles of Stonage, hath not a word of it; nor Ethelwred, nor Hoveden, nor Ingulthus, nor Paris, nor Weſtmonaſterienſis, nor Florentius Wigornienſis: who all wrote above five hundred years ſince; yet not a word of it: and Henricus Huntingdonienſis, writing near the ſame time, tells the naked truth of the matter: and that it was not, becauſe they would not, but becauſe they could not, ſay any thing of it. His words are, "*Quatuor ſunt in Angliâ, "quæ mira videntur; ſcilicet Stanenges* (i. e.) Stonage; "*ubi lapides miræ magnitudinis in modum portarum elevati "ſunt, ita ut portæ portis ſuperpoſitæ videantur; nec poteſt "quis excogitare, quâ arte tanti lapides; adeo in altum ele- "vati ſunt; vel quare ibidem conſtructi ſunt.*" This Stonage did aſtoniſh them; this did amaze them; that they durſt not labour, leſt they ſhould looſe their labour,

labour, and themſelves alſo. And if the grand ſeniors, which lived ſo near it, above a thouſand years ſince, could not, how ſhould we ſillie freſhmen unlock this cloſet? I have ſtumbled on two picklocks; which, if dexterouſly handled, will ſet it wide open to the world. 1. A Deſcription of Stonage, (as he calls it) and 2. A Mappe of Wiltſhire. He refers his reader to Inigo Jones, for a deſcription of the fabrick; and endeavours to collect, from the map, Brittiſh names ſimilar to it; but can find but one; which is the nick-name Stonehenge.

1. Stonage was an old Britiſh monument.

The old Britons were the firſt of ſix nations, which had the poſſeſſion of this land ſucceſſively, viz. old Britons, Belgæ, Romans, Saxons, Danes, and Normans. The old Britons came originally from the tower of Babell, thus: Shortly after the deluge, the Lord having bleſſed Noah, and his poſterity, ſaying, "Be fruitful, multiply, and repleniſh the earth;" notwithſtanding they had been fruitful, and had in a ſhort time multiplied incredibly, yet they obſtinately refuſed to repleniſh the earth; but ſaid, "Go to, let "us build us a citie, and a tower in it, whoſe topp "may reach unto Heaven, leaſt we be ſcattered over "the face of the whole earth;" ſo they intended to dwell in their citie together, and to ſecure themſelves from

from any future flood in the tower: but the Lord confounded their one (viz. Hebrew) into fifty-two languages; ſo that they, not underſtanding each other, babling about carrying on the worke, were neceſſitated to give it over unfiniſhed; and then each principal man amongſt them, having ſought out, and brought together, ſuch as could well underſtand his language, conducted them into the ſeveral parts of the earth; where many of them are called after their conductors names to this day; as the Medes, from Madai; the Muſcovites, from Meſech, or Moſock; the Canonites, from Canan; and Gomer, the eldeſt ſon of Japhet, calling together all ſuch as could underſtand Gomerarg, as the ſpeech of Gomer, conducted them to, and ſeated them in, France; where they were called Gomeri, after old Gomer; and ſome of them in Britaine.

2. My ſecond particuler is, that a bloudy battle was foughten at Stonage. For the very name Stonage ſignifies *Stone-battle*; the laſt ſyllable, *age*, comeing from the Greek ἀγὼν, *a furious battle*, &c. ſo that all, that have built their opinion of this monument, on any other foundation, than a bloudy battle, have built Stonages in the aire.

3. This bloudy battle produced a glorious victorie. It was not *bellum anceps*, or a drawn battle. He that runneth, may read almoſt clear victorie of the one over

the other armie, in the numerous trains of burrows, with mens bones in them, extending from Stonage to Ameſburie, and from thence to the top of Haradon Hill, about five miles in all; the burrows being very great, and ſtanding thicke at, and near Stonage, and ſtill ſmaller and thinner till near the top of Haradon Hill; plainly declaring the great execution done neare Stonage, and that the conquered armie fled toward Haradon Hill; the conquering armie purſued them thither, and ſlew many thouſands of them, and buried them in heaps together, in, and near, London way to the ſaid hill.

4. That this victorie was won by the Cangi of Glad-er-haf, viz. the people of Somerſett, who were all called Cangi, i. e. fingers to inſtruments of muſick, from Canig, *Canticum organi muſici*; in which it ſeems, they delighted ſo much, that, as the old Britons did, ſo their poſteritie of Wales do call Somerſett Glad-er-haf, *The Merry Summerfield* to this day.

5. That theſe Cangi were giants, will appear, from this monument being anciently called the Giants' Dance; and Cannings or the Cangings, near Stonage, ſignifie Cangick giants, &c.

By ſome huge bones of men, found amongſt others, in the ſaid burrowes, as aforeſaid, and in other places near

near Stonage, according to the very words of Sir Thomas Elliot, in his Dictionarie, on the word *Gigas*. "About fifty years ſince, I myſelf, being with my "father, Sir Richard Elliot, at a moneſterie of regular "canons, (three or four miles from Stonage) beheld "the bones of a dead man, found deep in the ground; "which, being joyned together, was in length thirteen "feet and ten inches; whereof one of the teeth my "father had, which was of the quantity of a great "wallnut. This I have written (ſaith he) becauſe "ſome men will believe nothing that is out of the "compaſs of their knowledge," &c.

6. That the commander in chaſe of theſe Belgæ, was the famous old Staneage, of Glad-er-haf aforeſaid, which gives demonſtration that as Stonage was one, ſo Stanenges was another Britanick Græcian name of this monument: ſo alſo, of a moſt ancient flouriſhing family in Glad-er-haf to this day; which name could not ariſe from any other place, or thing, than this monument, &c.

7. The people conquerred by the Cangi, were King Divitiacus and his Belgæ, of Low Germanie. He invading Britaine with his Salii of Belgium, came into Wiltſhire, and quartered, and plundered all over Saliſburie plain, &c. Old Stanenges and his Cangi drew up their armie in Yearnſburie Caſtle, five miles weſt-

ward from Stonage: Divitiacus and his armie from the top of Haradon Hill, five miles north-eaſt thereof: where, after they had faced each other a while, they met, and fought a bloudie battle, in the mid-way; where the Belgæ being routed, fled homewards towards their ſaid hill of refuge; but ſo many of their Salii were ſlain, and buried in the burrows aforeſaid, that the field was ever ſince called Saliſburie-Plaine.

8. The Cangick Giants having conquered, triumphed over their enemies at Stonage; which, upon that occaſion, was called the Giants' Dance: and this triumphant ſinging and danceing together, at the time, and place of victorie, was the common practice of the ancients, &c.

9. But all this ſinging and danceing did but beate the aire, uncapable of any legible impreſſion, in which poſterity might read this glorious victorie; therefore they thought it expedient to erect this monument as their trophie, and as ſuch a Gazett, as all the world might gaze at, and admire their heroicall valour through all generations, &c.

10. This trophie was a temple, or rather a tropicall temple. For, firſt, it was the common practice of the heathens, to promiſe and vow temples, as trophies, to their ſuppoſed gods, or goddeſſeſs, of victorie, in caſe they

they would give them ſome great victorie; which when they had obtained, they ſurely built accordingly, in the place aforeſaid of an ordinarie trophie: ſo it was called a tropicall temple, &c.

11. And this temple was conſecrated to Andraſte, alias Anaraith, alias Andates, their goddeſs of victorie. For to whom elſe, would, or could they dedicate a temple for victorie, but to their ſuppoſed goddeſſe of victorie? She was termed Andraſte, in relation to the conquerors; and, in reſpect of the conquered, Anaraith: and Gildas Badonicus, ſpeaking of the gods of the ancient Britons, ſays, "*Nec enumerans patriæ portenta ipſa* "*diabolica, pene numero Ægyptiaca vincentia; quorum* "*nonnulla, lineamentis adhuc deformibus, intra, vel extra,* "*deſerta mœnia, ſolito more rigentia, torvis vultibus* "*intuemur*, &c."

Our Author renders *torvis vultibus*, bulliſh countenances, ſo the bulliſh names of divers circumjacent pariſhes do intimate; that Anaraith was a very Bulleger, as Bulford, two Blunſdons, orthog. Bullunſdowns, i. e. Bulls-temple downs, and Will fall, orthog. Bull fall, i. e. Bull Devil: and why not the old Britons have their Bull Devil, as well as the Iſraelites their Calf Devil, and the Egyptians their Ox Devil, Apis?

 12. That

12. That they uſually ſacrificed their captives and ſpoils to Andates in her temple, &c. I ſhall prove from Tacitus. The Romans, having conquerred Britaine, tyrannized ſo intollerably over them, that Praſutagus, king of the Iceni, that he might free his ſubjects from their calamities, made the Roman Emperor Nero his heir; hoping that he, and his, ſhould thereby have the more favour, during his life at leaſt: but the Romans taking all for their own, preſently tyrannized infinitely the more; whipped his Queen Baodicea; raviſhed his daughters, and plundered his ſubjects of all their eſtates: whereupon his wife Baodicea, ſtirring up firſt the Trinobantes, i. e. the Londoners, and afterward the Britons in general, raiſed a moſt bloudy warr againſt the Romans; cut off their two Colonies, Verolamium, and Camalodunum; diſtroyed the ninth legion; put Catus Decianus to flight; deſtroyed eighty thouſand of them; ſome by the ſword, and ſome by ſacrificing them, with the greateſt cruelty, to Andates, in her temple, &c.

GIBSON'S STONEHENGE, *from* CAMDEN'S BRITANNIA.

ABOUT ſeven miles north of Saliſbury, is Stonehenge; a piece of antiquity ſo famous, as to have gained the admiration of all ages, and engaged the pens of ſome very conſiderable authors. 'Tis of itſelf ſo ſingular, and receives ſo little light from hiſtory, that almoſt every one has advanced a new notion. To give the ſeveral conjectures, with ſome ſhort remarks, is as much as the narrow compaſs of our deſign will allow. But not to hunt after ſuch uncertainties, and in the mean time to paſs over what lies before our eyes, we will premiſe a deſcription of the place, as it now ſtands, much more diſtinct than what Mr. Camden has left us. It is ſituated on a riſing ground, environed with a deep trench, ſtill appearing, and about thirty feet broad. From the plain it has had three entrances, the moſt conſiderable lying north-eaſt; at each of which was raiſed, on the outſide of the trench, two huge ſtones gate-wiſe; parallel whereunto, on the inſide, were two others of leſs proportion. After one has paſſed this ditch, he aſcends thirty-five yards, before he comes at the work itſelf; which conſiſts of four circles of ſtones. The outward circle is about one hundred feet diameter; the ſtones whereof are very

large, four yards in height, two in breadth, and one in thickneſs. Two yards and an half within this great circle, is a range of leſſer ſtones. Three yards farther is the principal part of the work, called by Mr. Jones, the Cell, of an irregular figure, made up of two rows of ſtones; the outer of which conſiſts of great upright ſtones, in height twenty feet, in breadth two yards, and in thickneſs one yard. Theſe are coupled at the top by large tranſome ſtones like architraves, which are ſeven feet long, and about three and an half thick. Within this, was alſo another range of leſſer pyramidal ſtones, of about ſix feet in height. In the inmoſt part of the cell, Mr. Jones obſerved a ſtone (which is now gone) appearing not above the ſurface of the earth, and lying toward the eaſt, four feet broad, and ſixteen long; which was his ſuppoſed altar-ſtone.

And ſo much for the ſtructure and dimenſions of the monument; only it may in general be obſerved, that the ſtones are not artificial, as Mr. Camden, and ſome others would perſuade us, but purely natural, as Mr. Jones has aſſerted.

The opinions about it may be reduced to theſe ſeven heads:

1. That it is a work of the Phœnicians; as Mr. Sammes in his *Britannia* conceits; a conjecture that hath

hath met with ſo little approbation, that I ſhall not ſtay to confute it.

2. That it was a temple of the Druids, long before the coming in of the Romans, which Mr. John Aubrey, fellow of the royal ſociety, endeavours to prove in his manuſcript treatiſe, entitled *Monumenta Britannica*.

3. That it was an old triumphal Britiſh monument, erected to Anaraith, the goddeſs of victory, after a bloody battle won by the illuſtrious Stannings, and his Cangick giants, from Divitiacus and his Belgæ; and that the captives and ſpoils were ſacrificed to the ſaid idol in this temple; an opinion advanced (upon what grounds I know not) in an anonymous M.S. written about the year 1666, and now in the hands of the learned Mr. Andrew Paſchal, rector of Chedzoy, near Bridgwater.

4. That it was a monument raiſed by the Britons in memory of Queen Boadicia; advanced by the Author of *Nero Cæſar*.

5. That it was a temple, built by the Romans, to the God Cœlum, or Terminus, of the Tuſcan order, is Mr. Jones's opinion in his ingenious conjecture upon this ſubject.

6. That it was the burial place of Uther, Pendragon, Conſtantine, Ambroſius, and other Britiſh kings; or, as others would have it, a monument erected by Ambroſius, in memory of the Britons here ſlain.

7. That it was a Daniſh monument, erected either for a burial place, a trophy for ſome victory, or a place for election, or coronation, of their kings.

Theſe are all the opinions which have been advanced about it. And in general, I ſhould think, one need make no ſcruple to affirm, that it is a Britiſh monument; ſince it does not appear, that any other nation had ſo much footing in this kingdom, as to be authors of ſuch a rude, and yet magnificent, pile. For, to paſs by the Phœnicians; that it could not be built by the Romans, is evident from the rudeneſs of the whole work. So that (as Mr. Aubrey has very well obſerved) whilſt Mr. Jones pleaſes himſelf with retrieving a piece of architecture out of Vitruvius, he abuſes his reader by a falſe ſcheme of the whole work. For the cell is not of an exact hexagonal figure, but very irregular, and comes nearer a heptagon; ſo that the whole work cannot be formed upon the baſis of four equilateral triangles, as Mr. Jones ſuppoſed. Neither are the entrances into the trench ſo regular, and ſo equidiſtant, as that author would make them. Till theſe, and ſome other doubts (which may be raiſed from

from the order of the building) be reſolved, and till we are aſſured from good authority, that the Romans uſed to build ſuch ſtupendous pikes, ſix or ſeven miles from any of their ſtations, without any inſcription, or Roman coin ever found near them, it cannot be ſafe to cloſe with Mr. Jones; though his book be otherwiſe a learned and ingenious piece.

Nor could it be built by the Danes; as, for many other reaſons, ſo particularly, becauſe 'tis mentioned in ſome manuſcripts of Ninius; who, as every body knows, wrote almoſt two hundred years before the Danes were maſters of any conſiderable part of this iſland. Other arguments, that make againſt this, may be had from Mr. Webb's *Vindication of Stonehenge Reſtored*; in which he has endeavoured, with a great deal of learning, to defend his father-in-law Mr. Jones's ſcheme, though that be in itſelf falſe.

One great argument, by which Mr. Jones eſtabliſhed his own opinion, is, that 'tis a thing altogether improbable the Britons could build ſuch a monument. But the contrary is evident, from the fortifications of Caractacus's camp; from the vaſt ſtones mentioned by Dr. Plott, to be in or near the Britiſh city, or fortification, by Wrotteſly, in Staffordſhire; and from the parcel of ſtones (not unlike Stonehenge) that are in ſome parts of Scotland and Wales; whither the Ro-

mans, and Danes, never came. 'Tis true, thoſe monuments have not their architraves (which Stonehenge has, not only in the ſtones round the cell, but alſo on the great ſtones of the utmoſt circle;) and this makes it probable, that Stonehenge was built after the Romans came in, and in imitation of ſome of their ſtructures; though, as to the general part of the work, it appears to have been inartificial, and favours of their primitive rudeneſs; for, that the Britons, among other parts of humanity, and neat living, learnt ſomething of architecture from the Romans, is plain, from the life of Agricola.

In that other point, the occaſion upon which it was built, 'tis eaſier to confute thoſe opinions, that have already appeared, than to deliver a true one. There is no authority to convince a man of the truth of what Nero Cæſar, or Mr. Paſchal's M. S. have laid down; and 'tis hard to aſſent to the later Britiſh writers, who tell us it was the ſepulchre of the Britiſh kings; or elſe in memory of the Britons here maſſacred by the Saxons. For, not to mention the improbability of what thoſe authors have delivered, they tell us farther, that the kings buried, or Britons martyr'd, in this place, were Chriſtians. Now 'tis ſtrange, if ſo, there ſhould be no croſs, nor any other token of the Britiſh faith upon this monument. What reaſon can be given, why the ſurviving friends of theſe princes and noble-

men,

men, ſhould not be as careful of their memory, as they of the ſame age were of King Arthur's; in whoſe monument, at Glaſſenbury, was found ſo diſtinct an inſcription? But what makes more againſt this opinion, are the aſhes, and pieces of burnt bones, here frequently found; by which it is plain, it was no Chriſtian burial place; ſince ſacrifices, and the cuſtom of burning the dead, grew out of uſe, upon the receiving of the Chriſtian faith.

For the name, Leland's opinion, that the Britiſh one, *Choir Gaure*, ſhould not be tranſlated *Chorea Gigantum*, but *Chorea nobilis*; or elſe that *Gaure* is put for *Vaure*, which makes it *Chorea magna*; is probable enough. But the true Saxon name ſeems to be Stanhengeſt (and ſo it is writ in the *Monaſticon*, out of a manuſcript of good authority,) from the memorable ſlaughter, which Hengiſt, the Saxon, here made of the Britons. For though 'tis not very probable, that they were erected by Ambroſius, in memory of the Britons, yet, without doubt, that treacherous ſlaughter was committed at, or near this place. If this etymology may be allowed, that which received derivation from the hanging of ſtones, may be as far from the truth, as that of the vulgar, Stone-edge, from ſtones ſet on edge.

Dr. STUKELEY'S *Deſcription of* STONEHENGE.

STONEHENGE ſtands, not upon the ſummit of a hill, but pretty near it; and, for more than three quarters of the circuit, you aſcend to it very gently from the lower ground: at half a mile diſtance, the appearance of it is ſtately, awful, and really auguſt. As you advance nearer, eſpecially up the avenue, (which is now moſt perfect,) the greatneſs of its contour fills the eye in an aſtoniſhing manner.

Stonehenge is incloſed within a circular ditch; after one has paſſed this ditch, he aſcends thirty-five yards, before he comes at the work itſelf. This meaſure is the ſame as that which Webb calls one hundred and ten feet, the diameter of the work; for the area incloſed by a ditch, wherein Stonehenge is ſituate, is in diameter three times the diameter of Stonehenge: therefore the diſtance between the verge of the ditch within ſide, quite round to the work of the temple, is equal to the diameter of the temple; the reader is to obſerve that Dr. Stukeley's meaſure of this temple is by the Hebrew, Phœnician, or Egyptian cubit, which, compared to the Engliſh foot, amounts to twenty inches, and four fifths.

When

When you enter the building, whether on foot or horſeback, and caſt your eyes around, upon the yawning ruins, you are ſtruck into an extatic reverie, which none can deſcribe, and they only can be ſenſible of, that feel it. Other buildings fall by piece meal; but here a ſingle ſtone is a ruin, and lies like the haughty carcaſe of Goliah. Yet there is as much of it undemoliſhed, as enables us ſufficiently to recover its form, when it was in its moſt perfect ſtate. When we advance further, the dark part of the ponderous impoſts over our heads, the chaſm of ſky between the jambs of of the cell, the odd conſtruction of the whole, and the greatneſs of every part ſurpriſes. We may well cry cry out in the Poet's words, *tantum relligio potuit.*

If you look upon the perfect part, you fancy entire quarries mounted up into the air: if upon the rude havock below, you ſee as it were the bowels of a mountain turned inſide outwards. Directly down the avenue, to the north-eaſt, the apex of an hill terminates the horizon; between which, and the bottom of a valley, you ſee the Curſus, a work which has never yet been taken notice of; being a ſpace of ground, included between two long banks, going parallel eaſt and weſt, at three hundred and fifty feet diſtance; the length ten thouſand feet: this was deſigned for the horſe races and games, like the Olympic, the Iſthmian, &c. of the Greeks. In the valley, on this ſide of it, the

the ſtrait part of the avenue terminates in two branches; that, on the left hand, leads to the Curſus; that, on the right, directly up the hill, between two famous groups of barrows, each conſiſting of ſeven in number; the fartheſt, or thoſe northward, I call *The Oldeſt King's Barrows*; the hithermoſt are vulgarly called *The Seven King's Graves.*

Theſe ſeven laſt are now incloſed and planted with Scotch firs, by his Grace the Duke of Queenſberry, ſince the Doctor's time, and have a delightful proſpect from Stonehenge.

Many, from the great quantity of theſe ſepulchral tumuli here, injudiciouſly conclude, that there have been great battles upon the plain; and that the ſlain were buried there. But they are really no other than family burying places, ſet near this temple, for the ſame reaſon as we bury in church-yards, and conſecrated ground.

Of the outer circle of Stonehenge, which, in its perfection, conſiſted of ſixty ſtones, thirty uprights, and thirty impoſts, there are more than half the uprights, viz. ſeventeen, left ſtanding.

Eleven of theſe uprights remain continuous by the grand entrance, with five impoſts upon them. One upright,

upright, at the back of the temple, or on the ſouth-weſt, leans upon a ſtone of the inner circle. There are ſix more lying upon the ground, whole, or in pieces: ſo that twenty-four, out of thirty, are ſtill viſible at the place. There is but one impoſt more in its proper place, and but two lying upon the ground; ſo that twenty-two are carried off. Somewhat more than eight feet inward, from the inſide of this exterior circle, is another circle of much leſſer ſtones. The ſtones that compoſe it are forty in number, forming with the outer circle (as it were) a circular portico: a moſt beautiful walk, and of a pretty effect.

Of theſe greater ſtones of the adytum, as I obſerved before, there are none wanting. They are all on the ſpot; ten upright ſtones; five corniſhes. The trilithon firſt, on the left hand, is intire in ſitu, but vaſtly decayed, eſpecially the corniſh. There are ſuch deep holes corroded in ſome places, that daws make their neſts in them. The next trilithon, on the left hand, is entire; compoſed of three moſt beautiful ſtones. The corniſh happened to be of a very durable kind of Engliſh marble, and has not been much impaired by weather. My Lord Winchelſea, and myſelf, took a conſiderable walk on the top of it; but it was a frightful ſituation. The trilithon of the upper end of the adytum, was an extraordinary beauty; but alas! through the indiſcretion, probably of ſomebody digging there,

there, between them and the altar, the noble impoſt is diſlodged from its airy ſeat, and fallen upon the altar; where its huge bulk lies unfractured. The two uprights that ſupported it, are the moſt delicate ſtones of the whole work. They were, I believe, above thirty feet long, and well chizelled, finely tapered, and proportioned in their dimenſions. That ſouthward is broke in two, lying upon the altar. The other ſtands entire, but leans upon one of the ſtones of the inner oval. The root end, or unhewn part, of both, are raiſed ſomewhat above ground. We cannot be ſure of the true height of this, when it was perfect; but I am ſure, fifteen cubits, which I have aſſigned, is the loweſt. The next trilithon, that toward the weſt, is entire; except, that ſome of the end of the impoſt is fallen clean off; and all the upper edge is diminiſhed by time. The laſt trilithon, that on the right hand of the entrance into the adytum, has ſuffered much. The outer upright, being the jamb of the entrance, is ſtill ſtanding: the other upright, and impoſt, are both fallen forwards into the adytum, and broke each into three pieces; I ſuppoſe from digging near it.

Stonehenge is compoſed of two circles, and two ovals, reſpectively concentric. At the diſtance of two cubits, inward from the greater oval, is deſcribed another leſſer oval, on which the ſtones of the inner oval are to ſtand: nineteen ſtones in number, at about the central

central diſtance of three cubits. Their height is likewiſe unequal, as the trilithons; for they riſe in height, as nearer the upper end of the adytum. From the ruins of thoſe left, we may well ſuppoſe, the firſt next the entrance, and loweſt, were four cubits high; the moſt advanced height behind the altar, might be five cubits, and perhaps more. The ſtones are ſomewhat of a pyramidal form; for they taper a little upward. They are of a much harder ſort, than the other ſtones of the leſſer circle. They were brought ſomewhere from the weſt. Of theſe there are only ſix remaining upright. The ſtumps of two are left on the ſouth ſide by the altar; one or two were thrown down, probably by the fall of the upright of the firſt trilithon on the right hand. A ſtump of another remains by the upright there, ſtill ſtanding. Their exact meaſures, as to height, breadth, or thickneſs, cannot well be aſcertained. For they took ſuch as they could find, beſt ſuiting their ſcantlings; but the ſtones were better ſhaped, and taller, as advancing towards the upper end of the cell.

Thus have we finiſhed the work, or principal part, of this celebrated wonder; properly the temple, or ſacred ſtructure, as it may be called; though its loftieſt creſt be compoſed of one ſtone laid upon another.

The

The great oval conſiſts of ten uprights; the inner, with the altar, of twenty; the great circle, of thirty; the inner, of forty. Ten, twenty, thirty, and forty together, make one hundred upright ſtones. Five impoſts of the great oval, thirty of the great circle, the two ſtones ſtanding on the back of the area, the ſtone lying within the entrance of the area, and that ſtanding without. There ſeems to have been another ſtone lying upon the ground, by the vallum of the court, directly oppoſite the entrance of the avenue. All added together, make juſt one hundred and forty ſtones; the number of which Stonehenge, a whole temple, is compoſed. Behold the ſolution of the mighty problem: the magical ſpell is broke, which has ſo long perplexed the vulgar! They think it is an ominous thing to count the true number of the ſtones; and whoever does ſo, ſhall certainly die after it. Thus the Druids contented themſelves to live in huts and caves, whilſt they employed many thouſands of men, a whole country, to labour at theſe public ſtructures, dedicated to the deity.

The altar here is laid towards the upper end of the adytum, at preſent flat on the ground, and ſqueezed (as it were) into it, by the weight of the ruins upon it. 'Tis a kind of blue coarſe marble, ſuch as comes from Derbyſhire. This altar is placed a little above the focus of the upper end of the ellipſis. Mr. Webb ſays, it

it is four feet broad, ſixteen long. Four feet is two cubits, two palms; which, at four times, meaſures ſix feet. I believe its breadth is two cubits, three palms; i. e. one and an half: and that its firſt intended length was ten cubits, equal to the breadth of the trilithon, before which it lies. But it is very difficult to come at its true length. 'Tis juſt a cubit thick, and has been ſquared. It lies between two centres, that of the compaſſes, and that of the ſtring; leaving a convenient place quite round it, no doubt, as much as was neceſſary for their miniſtration.

Of the court, round the temple of Stonehenge, ſomewhat is ſaid already, and of the two ſtones ſtanding within the vallum: and of the two remarkable cavities, which have ſome correſpondency therewith. I ſuppoſed they were places, where two great vaſes of water ſtood, for the ſervice of the temple, when they performed religious rites here. Sixty cubits is the diameter of Stonehenge: ſixty more reaches the inner edge of the circular ditch of the court. The ditch was originally near thirty cubits broad; but through a long tract of time, and the infinity of coaches, horſes, &c. coming every day to ſee the place, it is levelled very much. The intire diameter of the court, reaching to the outward verge of the ditch, is four times ſixty cubits; which is about four hundred and ten feet. The five outer circles of the ditch are ſtruck with a radius,

radius, of eighty, ninety, one hundred, one hundred and ten, and one hundred and twenty cubits. Juſt upon the inner verge of the ditch, at the entrance from the avenue, lies a very large ſtone, at preſent flat on the ground. The two ſtones within the vallum, are very ſmall ſtones, and ever were ten. The one ſtands, the other leans a little, probably, from ſome idle people digging about it.

This ſtone, at the entrance, is a very great one, near as big as any one of the whole work; and ſeems too, as little altered from its original form; only thrown down, perhaps by the like fooliſh curioſity of digging near it. It is near ſeven feet broad, and twenty feet long. If it ſtood originally, and a little leaning, it was one of thoſe ſtones which the Welch call *crwm lecheu*, or bowing ſtones. There is, doubtleſs, crwm lecheu ſtill ſtanding in its original poſture, and place in the avenue. 'Tis much of the ſame dimenſions as the other, though not ſo ſhapely; and ſtands in like manner, on the left hand, or ſouth, of the middle line, of the length of the avenue. I ſurmiſe, the Druids conſidered the propriety of making the other a little more ſhapely than this; becauſe within the area, and nearer the ſacred fabric, there is the diſtance of one hundred and nineteen feet between them; to ſpeak properly, eighty cubits. This ſtone has a hole in it, which is obſervable of like ſtones, ſet thus near our like temples:

ples: the ſtone is twenty-four feet in circumference, ſixteen high above ground, nine broad, ſix thick. The uſe of it, I cannot certainly tell; but I am inclined to think, that as part of the religious worſhip, in old patriarchal times, conſiſted in a ſolemn adoration, or three ſilent bowings; the firſt bowing might be performed at this ſtone, juſt without the ditch; the ſecond, perhaps at the next ſtone, juſt within the ditch. They then turned by that ſtone, to the left hand, as the manner was in a proceſſion round the temple, both the prieſts, and animals for ſacrifice. At thoſe two ſtones, and water-vaſes, probably there was ſome waſhings, luſtrations, or ſprinklings with holy water, and other ceremonies, which I do not pretend to aſcertain. Then upon the entry into the temple, perhaps they made their third bow, as in preſence of the deity: after this, in the court, we may ſuppoſe the prieſts prepared the hecatombs, as cuſtomary ſacrifices: If that great ſtone juſt within the ditch, always lay as it does now, flat on the ground, and in ſitu, (which I am not unwilling to believe) then, I apprehend, it was a table for dreſſing the victims.

The Curſus, about half a mile north of Stonehenge, acroſs the valley, is the Curſus or Hippodrom, which I diſcovered Auguſt 6, 1723. 'Tis a noble monument of antiquity; and illuſtrates very much the preceding account of Stonehenge. It was the univerſal cuſtom

to

to celebrate games, feaſts, exerciſes, and ſports, at their moſt public and ſolemn meetings to ſacrifice; which was done quarterly, and anniverſarily, at certain ſtated ſeaſons of the year. This great work is included between two ditches, running eaſt and weſt, in a parallel, which are three hundred and fifty feet aſunder. When I mention three hundred and fifty feet, I ſpeak in the groſs, and as we ſhould ſet it down in an Engliſh ſcale. This Curſus is a little above ten thouſand feet long; that is, it is made of ſix thouſand Druid cubits, in length: a moſt noble work, contrived to reach from the higheſt ground of two hills, extended the intermediate diſtance, over a gentle valley: ſo that the whole Curſus lies immediately under the eye of the moſt numerous quantity of ſpectators. To render this the more convenient for ſight, it is projected on the ſide of a riſing ground, chiefly looking ſouthward toward Stonehenge. A delightful proſpect from the temple, when this vaſt plain was crowded with chariots, horſemen, and foot, attending theſe ſolemnities, with innumerable multitudes! This Curſus, which is two miles long, has two entrances (as it were) gaps, being left in two little ditches; and theſe gaps, which are oppoſite to each other, in the two ditches, are oppoſite to the ſtrait part of the Stonehenge avenue.

I mentioned before, that at the bottom of the ſtrait part of Stonehenge avenue, in the valley, the avenue divides

divides itſelf into two parts. One goes directly eaſt toward Radſin; the other goes north-weſtward, and enters our Curſus nearly at the ſame diſtance weſt from the gaps, or entrances before-mentioned; as thoſe gaps are from the eaſt end of the Hippodrom. Theſe gaps being at a convenient diſtance from that eaſt end, may be thought to be in the nature of diſtance poſts. It ſeems to me, that the turf of the adjacent ground, on both ſides, has been originally taken off, and laid on the whole length of this Curſus; becauſe it appears ſomewhat higher in level. Though this was an incredible labour, yet a fine deſign for the purpoſe of running. The earth of the vallum is likewiſe thrown inward. The eaſt end of the Curſus is compoſed of a huge body of earth, a bank, or long barrow, thrown up nearly the whole breadth of the Curſus. This ſeems to be the plain of ſeſſion, for the judges of the prizes, and chief of the ſpectators. The weſt end of the Curſus is curved into an arch, like the end of the Roman Curſus'. And there probably the chariots ran round, in order to turn again. And there is an obſcure barrow or two, round which they returned, as it were, a meta.

This is the fineſt piece of ground that can be imagined, for the purpoſe of a horſe-race. The whole is commanded by the eye of a ſpectator, in any part. In the middle is a valley, and pretty ſteep at preſent: yet

only ſo, as that a Britiſh charioteer, may have a good opportunity of ſhewing that dexterity ſpoken of by Cæſar. But the exquiſite ſoftneſs of the turf, prevents any great damage by a fall. The ground of it hereabout declines ſomewhat northward. The main part of this Hippodrom is upon a gentle ridge, running eaſt and weſt. This rendered the place cooler.

On the ſouthern ridge, toward the weſt end of it, are many conſiderable barrows; but none toward the eaſt end, for that would obſtruct the view of Stonehenge. There are many barrows, but of no conſiderable bulk, on the north ſide, upon the extenſive aſcent, toward the great north long barrow. This magnificent work of the Curſus is drawn due eaſt and weſt; except a ſmall variation of four or five degrees ſouthward, from the eaſt. If we meaſure along the bank, from the eaſtern meta, at ſeven hundred cubits exactly, we come over againſt the middle line of the ſtrait part of the avenue to Stonehenge: five hundred cubits farther conducts us to the gaps, or oppoſite entrances, I before mentioned; which we ſuppoſe as diſtance poſts. The whole interval, between the eaſtern meta and theſe gaps, is one thouſand two hundred cubits. At one thouſand cubits more, we come to the place where the weſt wing of the avenue enters the ſouthern ditch of the Curſus. That weſt wing too is juſt one thouſand cubits long, to its union with the ſtrait part of Stonehenge

henge avenue. Likewiſe the ſtrait part of Stonehenge avenue is juſt one thouſand cubits long, as mentioned in its proper place. This weſt wing begins in the bottom of that valley which croſſes the middle of the Curſus; and ſweeping along by the bottom of the hill, in a gentle curve, meet with the lower end of the ſtrait part of Stonehenge avenue, where the wing, or avenue, unites to it, with an equal angle. So that the whole work is laid out with great judgment, and ſymmetry, and curiouſly adapted to the ground; which was well conſidered, before the plot was marked out by the firſt ſurveyors. From the bottom of the valley, croſſing the middle of the Curſus, to the weſtern meta, is three thouſand eight hundred cubits more; making in the whole, ſix thouſand cubits. The north end of the eaſtern meta does not extend ſo far as the northern bank of the Curſus: I ſuppoſe the reaſon is, that there might be liberty that way to ſtop the horſes at the end of the courſe. Therefore they ſet out on the ſouth ſide of the Curſus, and returned on the north ſide. I obſerve the ditch and bank, toward the eaſtern end of the Curſus, much obſcured, by the trampling of men and horſes, frequenting the ſpectacles here; this being the moſt thronged.

The Curſus is directly north, from Stonehenge; ſo exactly, that the meridian line of Stonehenge, paſſes preciſely through the middle of the Curſus. And when

we ſtand in the grand entrance of Stonehenge, and obſerve the two extremities of the Curſus, the eaſtern, and weſtern meta, they are exactly ſixty degrees from the meridian line, on each hand; making a third part of the circle of the horizon. By which we ſee the Druids well underſtood the geometry of a circle, and its meaſure of three hundred and ſixty parts.

The Barrows.

I come now in the next place to ſpeak of the Barrows, obſervable in great numbers round Stonehenge. We may very readily count fifty at a time, in ſight, round the place, eaſily diſtinguiſhable; but eſpecially in the evening, when the ſloping rays of the ſun ſhine on the ground beyond them. Theſe barrows are the artificial ornament of this vaſt and open plain. And it is no ſmall entertainment for a curious perſon to remark their beauties, their variety in form and magnitude, their ſituation, &c. They are generally of a very elegant campaniform ſhape, and done with great nicety. There is likewiſe a great variety in their ſhape and turn, and in their diameters, and in their manner of compoſition. In general they are always upon elevated ground, in ſight of the temple of Stonehenge; for they all regard it. This ſhews they are but ſuperficial inſpectors of things, that fancy from hence

hence great battles on the plain; and that theſe are the tumultuary burials of the ſlain. Quite otherwiſe: they are aſſuredly the ſingle ſepulchres of kings and great perſonages, buried during a conſiderable ſpace of time; and that in peace. There are many groups of them together, and as family burial places. The variety of them ſeems to indicate ſome note of difference in the perſons there interred, well known in thoſe ages. Probably the prieſts, and laity, were ſomeway diſtinguiſhed; as well as different orders, and ſtations in them. Moſt of the barrows have little ditches round, extremely well defined. In many is a circular ditch ſixty cubits diameter, with a very ſmall tumulus in the centre: ſixty, or even one hundred cubits, is a very common diameter in the large barrows.

In 1722, Lord Pembroke opened a barrow, in order to find the poſition of the body obſerved in theſe early days. He pitched upon one of thoſe ſouth of Stonehenge, cloſe upon the road thither from Wilton, and on the eaſt ſide of the road. It is one of the double barrows, or where two are incloſed in one ditch; one of theſe, which I ſuppoſe the later kind, and of a fine turned bell faſhion. On the weſt ſide, he made a ſection from the top to the bottom; an intire ſegment, from centre to circumference. The manner of compoſition of the barrow was good earth quite through, except a coat of chalk about two feet in thickneſs,

covering it quite over under the turf. Hence it appears that the method of making theſe barrows was, to dig up the turf for a ſpace round, till the barrow was brought to its intended bulk; then with the chalk, dug out of the environing ditch, they powdered it all over. At the top, or centre of this barrow, not above three feet under the ſurface, my Lord found the ſkeleton of the interred, quite perfect, of a reaſonable ſize; the head lying towards Stonehenge, northward.

The year following I begun upon a barrow, north of Stonehenge, in that group ſouth of the Curſus. It is one of the double barrows there, and the more eaſterly and lower of the two; likewiſe ſomewhat leſs. It was reaſonable to believe this was the ſepulchre of a man and his wife; and that the leſſer was a daughter: and ſo it proved; at leaſt a female. We made a large cut on the top, from eaſt to weſt. After the turf was taken off, we came to the layer of chalk, as before; then fine garden mould. About three feet below the ſurface, a layer of flints humouring the convexity of the barrow. This being about a foot thick, reſted on a layer of ſoft mould, another foot, in which was incloſed an urn full of bones. This urn was of unbaked clay, of a dark reddiſh colour, and crumbled into pieces: It had been rudely wrought with ſmall mouldings round the verge, and other circular channels on the outſide, with ſeveral indentures between, made with a pointed tool. It appears

appears to have been a girl of about fourteen years old, by their bulk, and a great quantity of female ornaments, mixed with the bones; all of which we gathered. Beads of all ſorts, in great numbers; of glaſs of divers colours, moſt yellow, one black, many ſingle, many in long pieces notched between, ſo as to reſemble a ſtring of beads, and theſe were generally of a blue colour. There were many of amber, of all ſhapes and ſizes, flat ſquares, long ſquares, round, oblong, little and great. Likewiſe many of earth, of different ſhapes, magnitude, and colour; ſome little and white, many large and flattiſh, like a button; others like a pully; but all had holes to run a ſtring through, either through their diameter or ſides. Many of the button ſort ſeem to have been covered with metal, there being a rim worked in them, wherein to turn the edge of the covering. One of theſe was covered with a thin film of pure gold.—Theſe were the young lady's ornaments, and had all undergone the fire: ſo that what would eaſily conſume, fell to pieces as ſoon as handled. Much of the amber burnt half through. This perſon was a heroine; for we found the head of her javelin in braſs. At bottom, were two holes for the pin that faſtened it to the ſtaff: beſides, there was a ſharp bodkin, round at one end, ſquare at the other, where it went into the handle. I ſtill preſerve whatever is permanent in theſe trinkets.—In the next barrow, at fourteen inches deep, we came to the intire ſkeleton of a

man, the ſkull and all the bones exceeding rotten, and periſhed, through length of time. The body lay north and ſouth, the head to the north.

We dug up one of theſe I call Druid's Barrows, a ſmall tump, incloſed in a large circular ditch. I choſe that next to Buſh-Barrow, weſtward of it: Stonehenge bears hence north-eaſt. We made a croſs ſection, ten feet each way, three feet broad over its centre upon the cardinal points. At length we found a ſquariſh hole, cut into the ſolid chalk, in the centre of the tumulus. It was three feet and a half, *i. e.* two cubits long, and near two feet broad, *i. e.* one cubit, pointing directly to Stonehenge. It was one cubit and a half deep from the ſurface. In this little grave we found all the burnt bones of a man, but no ſigns of an urn. In ſome other barrows I opened, were found large burnt bones of horſes and dogs, along with human. Alſo of other animals, as ſeemed, of fowl, hares, boars, deer, goats, or the like. Lord Pembroke told me of a braſs ſword, dug up in a barrow here, which was ſent to Oxford. In that very old barrow, near Little Ambreſbury, was found a very large braſs weapon, of twenty pounds weight, like a pole-ax, ſaid to be given to colonel Wyndham. In the great long barrow, fartheſt north from Stonehenge, which I call North Long Barrow, and ſuppoſed to be an Archdruid's, was found

found one of theſe braſs inſtruments, called celts; which I hold to belong to the Druids; wherewith they cut off the Miſleto. It is now in Sir Hans Sloane's cabinet, thirteen inches long.

Weſt View.

Deſcription of STONEHENGE, *by Mr.* WOOD.

THE grand and only acceſs to this work is by aſcending ground from the eaſt, north-eaſt, or rather from a point a ſmall matter more to the north; which makes the building appear really majeſtic to ſuch as approach it in front; and cannot fail of ſtriking the perſon who conſiders it as a ſacred ſtructure, with religious awe. The line of two detached ſtones before the front of the fabric, directs to the middle of the moſt entire part of the body of the building; and this part conſiſts of four great pillars, ſuſtaining three large blocks of ſtone.

After paſſing the middle aperture of this tetraſtyle frontiſpiece, a few paces bring us to the greateſt wonder of the whole work, and that is, a block of ſtone, of about fifteen feet and a half in length, lying edgewiſe on a flat-ſtone, almoſt ſunk into the ground; and ſo exactly counterpoiſed, as to be put in motion by the force of a man's hand. This rocking ſtone appears to be ſomething beyond the centre of the work; and the clear area in which we ſee it, and the ſtone whereon it reſts, is moſt apparently ſurrounded with the remains

of

of two double rows, or curved lines of pillars, ſome of which are ſtanding, ſome are leaning againſt others, and ſome lie flat on the ground.

The outward line of pillars, in the body of the work, conſidered as the periphery of a circle, was manifeſtly compoſed, or intended to be compoſed, of thirty in number; for thoſe that ſtill remain anſwer ſuch a deviſion: and the ſecond line of pillars, conſidered alſo as the periphery of a circle, concentric with the firſt line, ſeems to have been compoſed of nine and twenty in number; ſince the pillars now remaining in it anſwer that diviſion, and no other, as I could find by innumerable trials: the third line of pillars, conſidered partly as the periphery of a circle, and partly as a right line, was compoſed of ten in number; and the inner line of pillars, conſidered alſo partly as a periphery of a circle, and partly as a right line, concentric with the former, where curved, and parallel, where ſtrait, ſeems to have been compoſed of nineteen in number, ſince the pillars in it anſwer that very diviſion.

The altitude of the pillars in this fourth row, ſeems to have been juſt half the altitude of the pillars behind them; and the pillars of the ſecond row ſeem to have riſen juſt half as high as the pillars of the firſt row.

I have many reaſons to believe, that the ſame inter-columniation was intended, generally, in the ſecond row of pillars, in reſpect to the breadth of thoſe pillars, and the breadth of the voids between them, as appears to have been executed in the firſt row; and that the ſmaller pillars of the whole fabric were made of different breadths, thickneſſes, and even ſhapes, according as the things varied from each other, which thoſe pillars were intended to point out.

Stonehenge, whether conſidered in its ruins, or reſtored to the perfect ſtate I have thus pointed out, has ſo much regularity in the general diſpoſition of it, that the work would appear to me, as the wonderful production of the Roman art, and power, in Britain, in the moſt early ages of the world, had ſhe not been famed, and ſoon obtained ſuch a place in hiſtory, for the learning of her natives, as to make them capable of performing greater things, before the riſe, even of the Grecian empire. Therefore I ſhall adventure to lay before you the ſubſtance of what I have collected, to explain the works of Stonehenge as a public building, whoſe venerable remains will always ſhine with the characters of art, and immenſe labour, amongſt thoſe of the proudeſt ſtructures, that anciently graced the Britiſh empire: ſtructures that drew the Gallic Druids into our iſland, long before Cæſar advanced the Roman eagle to our ſhore; and ſtructures that Egypt herſelf might

might glory in, amidſt her choiceſt examples of architecture.

How ſtupendous the public buildings of the ancient Britons were, and how much above the ideas of mankind in general the performance of them was, ſeems every where to be handed down to the preſent age: common tradition, and even hiſtory itſelf, making the devil, conjurors, or giants, to be the artificers, who performed them.

The diameter of the body of this ſtructure is juſt one hundred and four feet; and the area about it, including the firſt bank of earth, is of the ſame breadth; ſo that this part of the whole work is three hundred and tweve feet in diameter, or thrice the diameter of the body of the fabric; and this is environed with a ditch and a ſecond bank of earth.

Mr. Wood, in his finiſhed plan of this temple, makes the number of ſtones amount to juſt one hundred and twenty eight: and the area round the body of the work, an Engliſh acre and one quarter of land, capable of containing ſix thouſand people, yielding a ſquare yard for each perſon to ſtand on.

Preſent State of the Stones.

As the ſpectator advances, from the valley, up the grand avenue to the temple, the firſt ſtone, that offers to his view, is called the Friar's heel, and ſtands two hundred and ten feet from the body of the ſtructure, in the middle of the avenue, and in a right line with the grand entrance.

The ſhape of this ſtone is pyramidal; ſixteen feet four inches high, and twenty-four feet nine inches in circumference; it ſtands bowing toward the temple, and has been much injured by the weather; there is not the leaſt appearance of any tool upon it. When you view it from the centre of the temple, it ſtands five degrees nearer to the eaſt from the north eaſt.

One hundred feet beyond, in the ſame line with the laſt mentioned ſtone, lies another very large ſtone on the vallum of the ditch; it is twenty-one feet four inches long, ſeven feet broad, and three feet thick. Rabbits burrow under it, which may have cauſed it to ſink under the ſurface of the earth; this ſtone formerly ſtood erect, and was ſquare at top. It is about eighty-five feet diſtant from the temple.

The next ſtone, by the vallum of the ditch, on the left

left hand, is near ninety feet from the temple, and eighty degrees from the laſt mentioned ſtone; it was, when erect, ten feet ſix inches high, thirteen feet ſix inches in circumference, and of a pyramidal form. It leans very much toward the ditch, and ſtands juſt forty degrees from the eaſt.

Directly oppoſite to the laſt ſtone, ſtands another erect, four feet high, and eleven feet nine inches in circumference; ninety feet diſtant from the temple; and forty degrees from the weſt.

Theſe are all the ſtones, that are detached from the body of this venerable ſtructure. The ditch is about one hundred and four feet from the temple, and in moſt places about thirty feet wide; the earth for the moſt part is thrown inward which formed the vallum.

Directly north and ſouth of the temple, juſt within the vallum of the ditch, is the appearance of two circular holes, encompaſſed with the earth, that was thrown out of them; but they are now almoſt effaced by time; they were, perhaps, originally intended for a meridian line.

All theſe ſtones are of the rock kind, compoſed of a very ſtrong grit, and ſo incruſted by time, that a tool will hardly touch them.

The

The outward circle of this temple conſiſted of thirty upright ſtones, of a ſtupendous ſize, crowned with thirty-architraves, or impoſts.

The upright pillars with their impoſts, are of the ſame kind of ſand rock as thoſe before-mentioned. Dr. Stukeley will have it to be a kind of baſtard marble; but I muſt beg leave to diſſent from him; and humbly hope to convince the reader, that it is a ſand rock, compoſed of a very ſharp grit, and ſo hardened by time, that at preſent, it reſiſts the force of any tool; they ſtand in a bed of chalk, which conſtantly drains off all moiſture that falls on them.

The upright pillars have each of them two oval tenons, and the impoſts two oval mortoiſes, to receive the tenons of the uprights. All the uprights are wrought on their beds.

Theſe uprights are not all of an equal breadth; ſome meaſure ſeven feet wide, others leſs; the ſame as to their thickneſs, ſome being three feet and a half, others much leſs. The void ſpace between the pillars is about three feet five inches: but thoſe at the grand entrance ſtand at a greater diſtance. The impoſts are about two feet ſix inches thick; and as they rather overhang the pillars, they are ſomewhat wider than the pillars.

Theſe

Theſe ſtones are erected in the ſame rude ſtate, as when firſt taken from the quarry; there being no traces of tools on any of them; except on their beds, where they receive the impoſts; and a little at the end of the impoſts, to favour the circular form of the temple; and are far from being of an equal ſize, notwithſtanding what ſome authors have ſuggeſted.

North View.

Account of STONEHENGE *by a* GENTLEMAN *of Saliſbury.*

BY whom this venerable ancient ſtructure was erected, or on what occaſion, is difficult in this remote age of the world to determine. It is mentioned by Britiſh writers more than a thouſand years ago; yet it is remarkable that neither Suetonius, nor Dio, who wrote ſo much concerning the Britiſh Druids; Tacitus, nor Ptolemy, who wrote largely of Britiſh affairs, nor any Roman writer whatever, nor Cæſar, make any mention of it; yet it is clear that it exiſted before their time, becauſe a Roman road ſtill viſible, cuts off a large corner of one of the barrows. But the Romans, it ſhould ſeem, held in contempt, all the temples and edifices of the Barbarians, as they affected to call all other nations; and even the beautiful edifices of Athens and Corinth, were deſtroyed by them without any compunction. A Roman camp capable of holding ten thouſand men, is ſtill viſible within five miles of Stonehenge (*Yarnbury Caſtle*), believed by Camden to be a ſtation of Veſpaſian's, who is ſaid by Suetonius, to have fought thirty battles, conquered two powerful nations in this quarter, and reduced the Iſle of Wight to the power of the Romans, for which the Senate decreed the Emperor

Emperor Claudius the honour of a triumph, and inſtituted civic games. The various writers ſince, have differed ſo much about its origin, that while ſome have aſcribed it to the Druids, the Britons, the Romans, the Saxons, and the Danes, others have carried its origin further back than the creation of Adam. Mr. Warltire, the lateſt writer on Stonehenge, endeavours to demonſtrate that it has been immerged in the ſea twelve miles deep, and that it was erected, judging by the preceſſion of the equinox, at leaſt ſeventeen thouſand years ago.

Amidſt the variety of theſe conjectures, it would be vanity indeed, in any writer of the preſent day, to pretend to ſatisfy the enquiring mind on this ſubject. The beſt thing he can do, is to trace out the opinions of the various writers from the moſt ancient times to the preſent, and after that to ſtate ſuch facts and diſcoveries upon opening the barrows, and digging near Stonehenge, as have from attentive reading and obſervation come to his knowledge.

The moſt ancient writer who makes any mention of Stonehenge, is Ninnius, (Gibſon ſays 'tis mentioned in ſome manuſcripts of Ninnius) a diſciple of Elvodugus, who flouriſhed about the year 617, an author of good antiquity, ſays Camden; this was at leaſt two hundred years before the Danes had acquired any conſiderable part of the iſland, conſequently they could not

not be the authors of it; however as he does not attempt to explain its origin, it is not probable it was erected to perpetuate the treachery of Hengiſt the Saxon, in aſſaſſinating the Britiſh nobles at a feaſt given near that ſpot by Vortigern, *circiter* 450. A fabulous way of accounting for it is given by Jeffery of Monmouth, a writer in 1130, and that it was brought thither from the plains of Killaraus, or Kildare, in Ireland, by the ſkill of the enchanter Merlin. This account is alſo retailed by Gerald Cambrenſis, in the twelfth century; and alſo by Rainulph, a Monkiſh writer, of Cheſter.

Stonehenge is a modern name compared with its original one, which was *Choir Gawr*. This ſome of the Monkiſh writers have turned into Latin, and rendered *Chorea Gigantum*, not being able to adopt a better name. This ancient Britiſh name is well known and underſtood by the Welſhmen of the preſent day, but does not properly explain its origin.

Many other writers make mention of it in their works, viz. Henry of Huntingdon, *anno* 1160, ſpeaks of it in the following words:—"Quatuor ſunt in "Anglia, quæ mira videntur, ſcilicet Stanenges, ubi "lapides miræ magnitudinis in modum portarum ele- "vatæ ſunt, ita ut portæ portis ſuper poſitæ videantur; "nec poteſt quis excogitare quâ arte tanti lapides adeo

"in

" in altum elevati ſunt vel quare ibidem conſtructi " ſunt." An additional proof of its very great antiquity, ſince no writer in the earlieſt ages could trace out any probable account of its origin. The only one extant is that given by Jeffery of Monmouth, who lived in Henry the Second's time, and who had it from the Welſh bards, but that account is ſo mixed with fable, that it becomes incomprehenſible; yet there is room for conjecture.

Other writers on Stonehenge are the following: Polyolbion, Peter Langtoft, Polidore Virgil, *anno* 1540; Camden, 1600; Inigo Jones, 1658; Dr. Charlton, 1660; Webb, 1665; Aubrey, 1670; Mr. Sammes, 1680; Aubrey, 1723; Toland, 1726; Dr. Stukeley, 1724; Wood, the Bath architect, 1747; and laſtly, Dr. Smith, 1771, who, improving on Dr. Stukeley, thinks it was not only a Druidical temple, but a building alſo for aſtronomical obſervations, and he ſupports it with great ingenuity.

Other eminent writers of Britiſh hiſtory there are, who, though flouriſhing in the different periods of time, and writing very particular accounts of other things, yet make no mention whatever of Stonehenge; theſe are, Gildas Badonicus, of Bath, who lived within thirty miles of it, and flouriſhed more than one thouſand two hundred years ago; the venerable Bede, *anno* 727;

727; William of Malmeſbury, 1140; Roger Hoveden, 1192; Ingulphus, 1060; Matthew of Paris, 1250; and Matthew of Weſtminſter, 1280.

But Henry of Huntingdon, who lived ſix or ſeven hundred years ago, ſays the reaſon many of theſe have not written of it, is, not becauſe they *would* not, but becauſe they *could* not ſay any thing about it.

Meaſurements of Stonehenge.

A circular ditch round Stonehenge is ſtill viſible, and its diſtance is juſt one hundred and four feet from the ſtones; one hundred and fifty feet from the ditch to the middle of the temple; and three hundred from ditch to ditch acroſs the middle of the temple.

The ſtones of the outer ring on the northward are fourteen feet in height, while thoſe on the ſouth ſide are only thirteen, becauſe the ground is higher on that ſide, and this is nicely and accurately contrived by the ancient builders of it, to keep the croſs ſtones over them to the ſame elevation, ſo as to deſcribe an elevated circle parallel to the horizon to the eye of an obſerver ſtanding near the altar ſtone *(this is a curious fact.)* The higheſt of the ſtones now ſtanding is in the inner circle, and meaſures twenty-two feet, and that leans on

on a little pillar which has a groove in it; of theſe little pillars there were, it is believed, thirty, as well as thirty uprights in the outer circle. The ſtone called the Friar's heel, ſtands two hundred and ten feet diſtant from the temple, and meaſures in height ſixteen feet four inches, in circumference twenty-four feet nine inches.

If you ſtand by the altar ſtone, and look towards the Friar's heel, you will ſee that the top of that ſtone coincides with Durrington hill, and on the top of that ſtone the ſun is ſuppoſed to make its firſt appearance on the longeſt day of the year; but from a certain motion of the earth, called the preceſſion of the equinox, it is conſiderably departed from it, equal to a fourth part of a revolution, which, according to Ptolemy's calculation, takes up ſeventy thouſand years to perform.

Things dug up at Stonehenge.

A tin tablet, with an inſcription of certain illegible characters on it, about the year 1540; it was ſhewn to Sir Thomas Elliot, and to Lilly, but they could make nothing out of it. It is much to be regretted that this valuable morſel of antiquity is now loſt.

A large

A large quantity of pewter found *anno* 1635, in plowing near Normanton ditch. It ſold as old pewter for ſeveral pounds.

A braſs inſtrument, called a celt, thirteen inches long, ſhaped like the head of a hatchet, with an edge, was found in the great long barrow fartheſt north from Stonehenge, and is preſerved in Sir Hans Sloane's cabinet.

In an old barrow near Little Ameſbury, was found a very large braſs weapon, of near twenty pounds weight, ſaid to be given to colonel Wyndham, or depoſited at Oxford. Several braſs celts have been found in opening different barrows. Bones, ſometimes in rude ſhaped urns of clay, at other times without them, both burnt and unburnt, of men, horſes, oxen, and dogs; beads, trinkets, and bits of coral and amber. In all the bodies found, it was obſerved the head was always placed northward.

Facts relating to Stonehenge.

Though braſs and tin, amber and beads, are frequently found here, yet it is not known that any *iron* inſtrument, or utenſil, was ever dug up at Stonehenge, a ſtrong

a ſtrong preſumption that it was erected before the uſe of iron was known in Britain.

Dr. Smith ſays the altar ſtone will not bear fire; I have tried it in the ſtrongeſt heat, and find it will.

For thirty years paſt jackdaws frequent theſe ſtones, for the ſake of the lichens which grow on them, and they build their neſts in the holes made by them in the ſtones. They are greater and more dangerous enemies to Stonehenge than even old Time.

Stonehenge ſtands in the beſt ſituation poſſible for obſerving the heavenly bodies, as there is an horizon nearly three miles diſtant on all ſides; and on either diſtant hill, trees might have been ſo planted as to have meaſured any number of degrees of a circle, ſo as to calculate the right aſcenſion, or declination of a ſtar or planet. But till we know the methods by which the ancient Druids calculated eclipſes long before they happened, ſo as to have made their aſtronomical obſervations with ſuch accuracy as Cæſar mentions, we cannot explain the theoretical uſes of Stonehenge. I will therefore only now conclude with the following obſervations from Robertſon's *Appendix to the Hiſtory of India:*

"The method of predicting eclipſes followed by the "Brahmins, is of a kind altogether different from any "found amongſt the nations of Europe. In Chaldea "alſo, as well as Greece, in the early ages, the method "of calculating eclipſes was founded on the obſerva-"tion of a certain period, or cycle, after which the "ſun and the moon agree with their former calcula-"tions." Monſieur Bailly, (the celebrated aſtronomer, and unfortunate Mayor of Paris) maintained, "that none of all the aſtronomical ſyſtems of Greece, "of Perſia, or of Tartary, can be made to agree with "the Indian tables, which, however, though calculated "back to remote ages, are found quite as accurate as "ours. The place of the ſun for the aſtronomical "epoch at the beginning of the Calyougham, in the "year 3102 before Chriſt, as ſtated in the tables of "Tirvalore, is only forty-ſeven minutes greater than "in the tables of M. de la Caille, when corrected by "the calculations of M. de la Grange."

It is therefore no proof that Stonehenge was not intended for calculating the motion of the heavenly bodies, becauſe no preſent method of making obſervations is to be applied to them. Their geometrical ſkill, notwithſtanding, is not to be called in queſtion.

Perhaps was a learned Brahman to contemplate on the

the ruins of Stonehenge, it is not impoſſible, but that he might comprehend ſomething more of its deſign than we do, and trace ſome veſtiges of an art wholly loſt to us.

South-weſt View.

Account of the Fall of ſome of the Stones of STONEHENGE, *in a Letter from* WILLIAM GEORGE MATON, M.B. F.A.S. *to* AYLMER BOURKE LAMBERT, *Eſq.* F.R.S. *and* F.A.S.

Dated May 30, 1797.

HAVING lately had more leiſure to make remarks on the alteration produced in the aſpect of Stonehenge, by the fall of ſome of the ſtones in January laſt, than when I firſt viſited the ſpot for this purpoſe, I am anxious to lay before the Antiquarian Society a more full and correct account of it than that which you did me the honour to tranſmit to them before.

On the Third of the month already mentioned, ſome people employed at the plough, full half a mile diſtant from Stonehenge, ſuddenly felt a conſiderable concuſſion, or jarring, of the ground, occaſioned, as they afterwards perceived, by the fall of two of the largeſt ſtones and their impoſt. That the concuſſion ſhould have been ſo ſenſible will not appear incredible, when I ſtate the weight of theſe ſtones; but it may be proper

to

to mention, firſt, what part of the ſtructure they compoſed, and what were their reſpective dimenſions.

Of thoſe five ſets, or *compages*, of ſtones (each conſiſting of two uprights and an impoſt) which Dr. Stukely expreſſively termed *trilithons*, three had hitherto remained in their original poſition, and entire, two being on the left hand ſide as you advance from the entrance towards the altar-ſtone, and one on the right. The laſt mentioned *trilithon** is now levelled with the ground. It fell outwards, nearly in a weſtern direction, the impoſt in its fall ſtriking againſt one of the ſtones of the outer circle, which, however, has not been thereby driven very conſiderably out of its perpendicularity. The lower ends of the two uprights, or ſupporters, being now expoſed to view, we are enabled to aſcertain the form into which they were hewn. They are not right-angled, but bevilled off in ſuch a manner that the ſtone which ſtood neareſt to the upper part of the *adytum* is twenty-two feet in length on one ſide, and not quite twenty on the other; the difference between the correſponding ſides of the fellow-ſupporter is ſtill greater, one being as much as twenty-three, and the other ſcarcely nineteen feet, in length. The breadth of each is (at a medium) ſeven feet nine inches, and

* This *trilithon* might, with great propriety, be called the weſtern, as no one of the others ſtood more nearly weſt of the centre of the ſtructure.

the thickneſs three feet. The impoſt, which is a perfect parallelopipedon, meaſures ſixteen feet in length, four feet ſix inches in breadth, and two feet ſix inches in thickneſs.

Now, a cubic inch of the ſubſtance* of which the above ſtones are compoſed, weighing, according to my experiments, one ounce ſix pennyweights, the ponderoſity of the entire *trilithon* will be found to be nearly ſeventy tons. The impoſt alone is conſiderably more than eleven tons in weight. This ſtone, which was projected about two feet beyond the ſupporters, made an impreſſion in the ground to the depth of ſeven inches, or more; it was arreſted in its tendency to roll by the ſtone it ſtruck whilſt falling. The ſupporters, of courſe, have not ſunk ſo deep; indeed, one of them fell on a ſtone belonging to the ſecond circle, which I at firſt ſuppoſed to have been thrown down by it, but which, from recurring to the plans of the prior ſtate of the ſtructure, I find have long been proſtrate.

Though I could not contemplate without emotions of peculiar awe and regret, ſuch an aſſault of time and the elements on this venerable ſtructure, I muſt own

* This is a ſiliceous grit, of rather a looſe texture, and of a dull whitiſh colour, with veins of brown, which ſeem to be occaſioned by the oxydation of the iron contained in it. All the ſtones of the great oval, and moſt of thoſe of the outer circle, conſiſt of this ſpecies of rock.

theſe emotions were in ſome meaſure counterbalanced by the ſatisfaction of being now enabled to diſcover the original depth of theſe ſtupendous ſtones in the ground. It appears that the longer of the ſupporters was not more than three feet ſix inches deep (meaſuring down the middle,) nor the other but little more than three feet. In the cavities left in the ground, there were a few fragments of ſtone of the ſame nature as that forming the ſubſtance of the trilithon, and ſome maſſes of chalk. Theſe materials ſeem to have been placed here with a view to ſecure the perpendicular poſition of the ſupporters.

The immediate cauſe of this memorable change in the ſtate of Stonehenge, muſt have been the ſudden and rapid thaw, that began the day before the ſtones fell, ſucceeding a very deep ſnow. In all probability the trilithon was *originally* perfectly upright, but it had acquired ſome degree of inclination long before the time of its fall. This inclination was remarked by Dr. Stukely, though it was not ſo conſiderable, I think, as is repreſented in his north view of Stonehenge. One of the ſupporters had loſt much of its original bulk, in conſequence of corroſion by the weather, near its foundation; this circumſtance alſo rendered it leſs ſecure. As both had ſo inconſiderable a depth in the ground, a ſudden, though ſlight, diminution of the preſſure of the latter againſt the inclining ſide, muſt appear

appear to have been fully ſufficient, on account of the ſhock which the impoſt would ſuffer, to occaſion the downfall of the whole.

We do not find the preciſe time of any alteration prior to this upon record; it is therefore probable that none may have happened for ſeveral centuries, and the late accident being the only circumſtance aſcertained with exactneſs, may be conſidered as a remarkable æra in the hiſtory of this noble monument of ancient art.

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